

Yellow House Hotel
Southwest corner of State Routes 662 and 562
Yellow House
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1035

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

YELLOW HOUSE HOTEL

HABS
PA
1035

Location: Southwest corner of State Routes 662 and 562,
Yellow House, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Present Use: Hotel, post office, general store, bar

Brief Statement
of Significance: This building is an example of the small country
hotel found in most crossroads communities in the
Schuylkill Valley.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner, Peter Nagle, Jr., from early in the nineteenth century to before 1825. Owned by Lemuel Guldin during the Civil War.
2. Date of erection: Early nineteenth century.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The porches and certain details on the building, such as the elaborate cornice brackets, are apparently later alterations.
4. Reference: Morton L. Montgomery, History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards, 1886), pages 610, 847, 942, and 953.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The Yellow House store and tavern was opened by Peter Nagle, Jr., who was born in Reading either June or July 11, 1782. Nagle was educated in Reading and became successful and prominent as a musician and manufacturer. He then moved to Yellow House to operate the tavern, returning to Reading before 1825. After his return he was elected Chief Burgess or mayor of Reading and was active as a businessman. Nagle married Susan E. Filbert December 12, 1802, and was the grandfather of the prominent Reading doctor H. M. Nagle. He died May 26, 1846. The Yellow House Hotel was presumably erected some time after his marriage in 1802, when he was 20 years old, and some time before his return to Reading before 1825.

Lemuel Guldin was active as a mule dealer at Yellow House and became quite wealthy trading with the Army during the Civil War.

The hamlet took its name from the yellow-painted hotel and was established as a post office under this name in 1866.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Yellow House Hotel is a large, two-and-a-half story, stone building of L-shaped plan with a gable roof. It has a one-story, columned porch on the north and east sides.

The building appears to be in fair condition, although the wood-work needs a great deal of repair.

The walls and foundations are stone, the exterior stuccoed and painted a light yellow. The roof of the porch is supported by crudely proportioned Doric columns.

There are three doorways opening on the east side and one on the north. The doors are apparently replacements. The windows are large six-over-six light, double-hung sash, and those on the first floor have solid three-panel shutters.

The gable roof has four pedimented dormers on the east side and three brick chimneys at the ridge. A deep bracketed cornice continues as a raking cornice at the gable ends.

The first floor is divided into a bar at the north, hotel in the center, and post office and general store on the south. The hotel guest rooms take up the second floor.

The building faces east and is located at the southwest corner of the crossroads at Yellow House.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
University of Pennsylvania
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